



THE STATE OF UTAH  
OFFICE OF STATE ENGINEER  
SALT LAKE CITY

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December 11, 1958

M E M O R A N D U M

A meeting of the executive committee of the Virgin River Water Users Association, together with representatives from Zion National Park, was held in the County Courthouse at St. George, Utah, on Wednesday, December 3, 1958. This meeting was arranged through LeRoy H. Cox, Chairman of the executive committee, who was unable to attend because of illness. Present were Wayne Wilson of LaVerkin, Evan Lee of Virgin, Fera Lemmon and Jack Scholzen of Hurricane, and Paul Franke and Jim Felton for Zion National Park. The secretary of the association, Ray Schmutz, also was not present.

The meeting had as its primary purpose the exploring of the possibility of the State Engineer assuming full responsibility for distribution of water from the Virgin River system commencing with the year 1959. The conclusion reached was that the State Engineer should do so and the representatives from Zion National Park were in entire agreement. They have felt that they could not pay an assessment to an unauthorized group but have indicated that they will pay their full share to the State Engineer.

The following indicate some of the matters discussed and the tentative answers reached. Distribution for 1959 should follow rather closely that for the past year except that the base should be broadened and as many as possible of the users brought in to the system. The secretary can furnish not only a list of those users who were billed for a water assessment during the past several years but also a list of other users who receive water and should have been billed but were not. He can also furnish a fairly accurate record of water deliveries for past years. A letter should be immediately forwarded him requesting this information together with a copy of the 1958 budget. A tentative budget for 1959 can then be prepared for submission to the water users' meeting.

It was suggested that our district engineer in Cedar City could well act as the official water commissioner with a local man to act as a full time deputy water commissioner. The budget would include the salary of the deputy and some small part of that of the district engineer. This is apparently most acceptable.

It may be noted that there is no money in the association treasury and it may also be noted that the first reaction to consolidation with the East Fork group was negative. However, some discussion opened the subject up further and they would now like it further explored. Most headgates have Parshall flumes that are fairly new. Additional requirements in this respect should come after distribution has indicated specific needs. Assessment based upon actual water delivered meets with their full approval and operation on that basis should

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start with the year 1960. The letter to the secretary, Ray Schmutz of St. George, Utah, should also request a list of names and addresses of water users;

The annual water users meeting should be held as soon as possible after the first of the year as use starts early in this area.

RBP/le